REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 13-38, 69-136, 145-148, 183-188, 193, 200-246 and 248-252 are pending in the application.

Claims 201-212, 215-217, 230 and 232-237 are rejected.

Claims 1-10, 13-38, 69-136, 145-148, 183-188, 193, 200, 213, 214, 218-229, 231, 238-246 and 248-252 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 201-218, 221-224, 229-230, 233, 235 and 248-252 (Group VIII) in the reply filed on November 19, 2005 is acknowledged.

Claims 201-209, 230, 232-237 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 201-211, 215, 217, 232-233, 235 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,756).

Claim 230 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,756) as applied to claim 201 above and further in view of Dom et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,735).

Claim 234 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,756) as applied to claims 201 above and further in view of Chiasson (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0002513 A1).

Claims 216 and 236-237 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,756).

Claim 212 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,756) as applied to claim 210 above and further in view of Fuller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,877,134).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The claims have been amended to overcome the section 112 rejections thereto.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Rejection of claims 201-211, 215, 217, 232-233 and 235 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Matsui et al.

The Applicants note that claim 232 has been indicated as being rejected based on Matsui. However, this claim does not belong to the elected Group VIII. Therefore, henceforth this claim is treated as being withdrawn.

Matsui (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,756) discloses a system for transmitting media objects over a data network, where the media objects are transmitted in two phases, as shown in Figure 5 of Matsui. In the first phase, control data, object descriptions, and "download type" video files are downloaded to the display terminal. In the second phase, streaming media files are downloaded in real-time simultaneously with display of the media. An alleged advantage of this system is that the control content is transmitted via a highly reliable protocol, thus reducing errors in reproduction (display) of the media.

Matsui also describes, by way of introduction, the object-by-object coding process defined in the MPEG-4 multimedia encoding standards. The encoding process described by Matsui includes the following steps:

(a) decomposing an image into objects, such as a background object and feature objects;

(b) encoding the objects individually;

(c) transmitting encoded objects;

(d) receiving encoded objects, either in parallel (i.e. multiplexed) or sequentially;

(e) decoding the object individually; and

(f) displaying the objects to compose the image.

Matsui states that control information, such as the location of objects in an image, is transmitted in addition to the image data.

However, Matsui does not disclose or suggest, encoding video data with object control data into a single video object, as claimed in the independent claims of the present application. In fact, Matsui teaches away from encoding video data with object control data into a single video object.

Moreover, the most relevant description in Matsui is of the MPEG-4 standards, which call for the object shape information, the object/luminance information, and the scene description (Binary Format for Scenes, BIFS) to be encoded separately.

The MPEG-4 standards advocate that the control data be separate from the encoded media data. For this reason, it appears that there has been no commercial implementation yet of the full MPEG system because of the complexity involved in decoding the media data separate from the control data, and then attempting to associate the two. Whilst there are a number of systems using MPEG-4 in relation to encoding the video data or media data, the control

information tends to be delivered entirely separately using different mechanisms, as the mechanism recommended by MPEG-4 is complex and inefficient. In addition to difficulties decoding the separate control and media data, the complexity of the MPEG-4 system makes it exceedingly difficult to dynamically generate the MPEG-4 streams with object control data.

The present invention, on the other hand, encodes video data with object control data as a video object. Such an approach allows decoding of a video object in one process so as to obtain both the video data and the object control data for that object. In addition to removing the complexity of the MPEG-4 system, this also provides considerable flexibility in relation to the control of each video object.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP 2100 *citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Claim 201 is not anticipated by Matsui at least for the above reasons.

Claims 210 and 218 include limitations that are analogous to the ones described above in relation to claim 201.

Claims 202-209, 211, 215, 217, 233 and 235 are dependent on the above base claims and are allowable at least for the same reasons.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejection of claim 230 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Matsui as applied to claim 201 above and further in view of Dom et al.

Claim 230 should be allowable at least based on its dependency. Moreover, Dom does not overcome the deficiencies noted above in the teachings of Matsui.

Dom (U.S. Patent No. 6,166,735) merely suggests a system to browse video objects on the web by viewing thumbnail stills of periodic or selected scenes from each video. Segments of the video objects may be downloaded by selecting a segment between two of the thumbnail stills.

Rejection of claim 234 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Matsui as applied to claim 201 above and further in view of Chiasson

Claim 234 should be allowable at least based on its dependency. Moreover, Chiasson does not overcome the deficiencies noted above in the teachings of Matsui.

Chiasson (U.S. Publication Application 2002/0002513) merely suggests a computer system to allow e-commerce, including shopping, bill payment or equity trading for a single user accessing multiple merchant sites. Tools included in the system facilitate, for example, comparative shopping and multiple simultaneous bill payments.

Rejection of claims 216 and 236-237 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Matsui

Claims 216 and 236-237 should be allowable at least based on their dependency.

Rejection of claim 212 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Matsui et al. as applied to claim 210 above and further in view of Fuller et al.

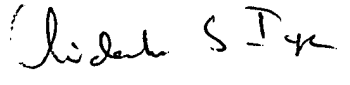
Claim 212 should be allowable at least based on its dependency. Moreover, Fuller does not overcome the deficiencies noted above in the teachings of Matsui.

Fuller (U.S. Patent No. 6,877,134) merely describes a video analog-to-digital conversion system which includes extraction of meta-data in real-time about the video being converted.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Chid S. Iyer
Registration No. 43,355

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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